



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY
MIKE STRAIN DVM
COMMISSIONER



BOLL WEEVIL ERADICATION COMMISSION MEETING

April 1, 2009

Scott Research & Extension Education Center
212 Macon Ridge Rd.
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Minutes

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CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Logan at 10:10 A.M.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Eva Wales.

Members present: Todd Parker, representing Commissioner Strain; Dr. Roger Leonard; Danny Logan; Jack Dailey; Boyd Holley; George Lacour and Dan Turner

Members absent: none

Others present: Travis Walker, Boll Weevil Eradication Commission alternate member; Dr. Bob Hutchinson, LSU Ag Center; LDAF employees Marc Bordelon, Craig Roussel, Kurt Moreau, Dan Tullos, John Dumas, Nolan Adcock, Gene Edmondson, Rick Sibley, David Osborn, Sharon Hopkins, Vernon Thomas, Tom Winegeart, Joey Normand and Eva Wales; Ken Pierce, USDA APHIS-PPQ; Richard Myers, Cheminova Inc.; and Jess Barr, Louisiana Cotton and Grain Association.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Mr. Dailey made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 31, 2008 meeting. This motion was seconded by George Lacour and passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Bordelon reported that we did not collect assessments from three producers for 2008. Liens were in place, but no cotton was harvested. These have been referred to our legal department.

Mr. Bordelon reported that measures will be taken to ensure all test cotton is reported and monitored. Letters will be sent to chemical companies stating that all cotton must be reported. Cotton will be inspected and trapped.

REPORT FOR COMMISSIONER STRAIN

Mr. Parker reported that Governor Jindal's proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year includes \$3 million (plus assessments) for boll weevil. We will need an additional \$1.4 million (based on 240,000 acres). Commissioner Strain is meeting today with both the House Ag Committee and the House Appropriation Committee and will be working with the legislature in the upcoming session to secure funding. Mr. Parker stated that we may need help from commission members during the legislative session.

There was a discussion regarding the 2008 budget. Mr. Roussel stated that we are on budget for this fiscal year and have purchased some Malathion for the 2009 season from current year funds. Mr. Bordelon stated that if we can make timely applications this year, we should have only a few areas to clean up in 2010; we may need to make a few applications in the spring of 2011; and are targeting 2012 for complete eradication. Discussion followed regarding eradication in the Red River Zone compared to the northeast. Mr. Roussel stated that several factors, including BT cotton and roundup ready technology, have impacted boll weevil eradication, extending programs beyond the five-year timeline.

UPDATE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Bordelon reported that USDA's estimate for Louisiana is 240,000 acres; down from 295,000 in 2008. Assessments will be \$6 per acre. The price of Malathion increased from \$26.53 to \$27.59/gl. We have eight totes left from last year and have purchased 28 totes to begin this year. This should take us into July.

Mr. Bordelon reported that aerial contracts for Barham Brothers and Goodman Flying were renewed. The contractor for the roving aircraft did not provide services last year; however, we were able to get a local applicator when we needed help. Bids will be mailed out next week for the roving aircraft contract; we only received two bids last year for this contract.

Mr. Bordelon gave an employee report as follows:

- 1) trappers will start on April 13; we hired 20 fewer this year
- 2) two full time employees recently retired (Woodworth secretary and field unit supervisor (FUS) at Winnsboro); neither will be replaced
- 3) three FUS's were let go (two in Oak Grove, one in Winnsboro) due to the reduction in cotton acres; we don't anticipate any problems even if acres go back up

Mr. Bordelon reviewed the 2009 trapping protocol (copy on file) and noted changes as follows:

- 1) volunteer cotton in fields not planted to cotton will be trapped and treated according to the 2009 operational plan
- 2) three week trapping schedule for all fields in West Carroll and East Carroll parishes plus fields in Tensas and Madison parishes east of the Tensas River (map on file)
- 3) if a weevil is caught in an area on a two-week or three-week schedule, trap spacing within one mile radius of the field will go back to density used in active eradication and traps will be run every week for the remainder of the year

Mr. Bordelon reviewed the 2009 operational plan (copy on file) and noted changes as follows:

- 1) four automatic pinhead square applications (two consecutive weeks with applications five days apart) on fields with cumulative catches of .3 or more weevils per acre based on traps catches from August 4, 2008 through November 21, 2008
- 2) start short interval spray schedule (twice per week) on fields that catch five or more weevils either in one trap run (cycle 6-14) or cumulative within cycles 6-9; these fields will be first priority; will continue until zero count

Mr. Bordelon reported that FUS's will contact producers that have cotton planted row to-row with other crops. If access is denied, at least two traps will be put out where the crops join (one at the beginning and another 300 feet into the row). In addition, traps will be placed completely around the field. The producer's name will be reported to the program director and to Commission members.

Mr. Bordelon discussed quality control and went over the following forms that are being used (copies on file): Field History Log, Hyboy/Mistblower Treatment Log, Marked Boll Weevil Log and Aerial Applicator Quality Control Worksheet. He stated that, per recommendation of the Technical Advisory Committee, we are looking into installing GPS units for the hyboys. The units won't show spray activity, but will provide a record of where the hyboy was used.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) REPORT

Upon recommendation from Chairman Logan, Dr. Leonard agreed to serve as chairman of the TAC. Dr. Leonard presented a report from the March 18 TAC meeting (copy on file). Items discussed include:

- 1) 2009 goal - 90% weevil reduction based on fall numbers (achieved approximately 85% last year)
- 2) roving aircraft is critical – timely applications are essential
- 3) pinhead square application protocol is sufficiently aggressive
- 4) border treatments to cotton fields near grain fields where cotton was planted last year
- 5) reliable electronic data a necessity
- 6) Trapping Protocol and Operational Plan were accepted by the TAC

Action items presented by the TAC for consideration include the following:

- 1) review aerial application systems prior to treatment initiation
- 2) provide GIS maps to identify problem fields
- 3) establish back-up plans for application issues
- 4) additional quality control on aircraft with observation by FUS
- 5) producer/consultant request for exemption to use ULV Malathion for plant bugs in July and August
- 6) volunteer monitoring of fields with suspicious catches: re-trap, report, access files and re-treat
- 7) encourage FUS and manager to report non-compliant farmer issues to Commission members
- 8) restrict trapper access from high catch areas to low or no catch areas
- 9) equip hyboys with GPS units

USDA REPORT

Mr. Pierce reported that the federal boll weevil quarantine for all regulated articles will be completed next year and could be in effect as early as June 2011. He reported that Oklahoma remains weevil free; Mississippi should be finished by the end of the year; Arkansas is still catching some weevils in the Portland area. Discussion followed regarding our relationship with Arkansas. Mr. Pierce stated that this seems to be improved; he hasn't heard of any problems. He stated that he is now in charge of safety and first-aid for the region, but will continue to be available for boll weevil.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

There was a discussion regarding the recent court ruling on the application of pesticides. Dr. Leonard explained that the restrictive guidelines of this ruling will completely change how we apply pesticides, not only in row crops but also in home use. Discussion continued regarding the impact of this ruling on boll weevil eradication. Mr. Barr stated that they hope to get this overturned; if not, the National Cotton Council will try to get the application license written broadly enough to allow for full season applications.

Mr. Dailey asked if trappers could pick up old traps as new ones are put. Mr. Bordelon stated that this is part of the trapping protocol and will be reinforced this year.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 P.M.